

Sent via e-mail to: minister.mah@ontario.ca

May 2, 2025

The Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park, 17th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Flack,

Local governments are a cornerstone of our democratic system: strong, effective and close to the people. The collaborative nature of municipal government has long been a strength of our system. The Government of Ontario has made significant changes to the municipal government framework, powers and processes in the last few years. In some circumstances, strong mayor powers can be a helpful tool to support progress on priorities, including increasing housing supply.

AMO has highlighted concerns with two elements of the strong mayor framework:

- **Majority Rule:** Changes to the Municipal Act that enable mayors to make law with the support of just one third of Council runs counter to fundamental democratic principles.
- **Public Administration:** Powers that enable the head of Council to hire and fire the heads of departments within municipalities and reorganize municipal administration are at odds with good corporate governance practice.

These elements are now law, and municipalities can be counted on to use these powers responsibly and in the public interest.

We have heard from our members that additional resources to support the rollout of this framework are needed. We would encourage the Ministry to consider offering a suite of guidance tools and training opportunities for mayors, councillors, and municipal staff.

Staff from AMO would be happy to meet with your ministry officials to discuss this important topic further.

Sincerely,



Robin Jones
AMO President

- cc. The Honourable Graydon Smith, Associate Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs
and Housing
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing